



## Wounded warriors visit Wiesbaden



ABOVE: Retired Master Sgt. Chris Corbin, wounded warrior, talks to a group of Soldiers and civilians Jan. 13 at the Mission Command Center on Clay Kaserne. Corbin and five other wounded warriors, including a Medal of Honor recipient, shared their stories of hope after life-changing injuries.

RIGHT: Medal of Honor recipient retired Master Sgt. Leroy Petry speaks to the crowd during the event.

After visiting Wiesbaden, the wounded warriors and retirees, sponsored by the Troops First Foundation, travelled to Ramstein Air Base and Landstuhl Regional Medical Center to better understand the process of their evacuation from combat to care and treatment.

See story on **Page 5**.

Photos by Emily Jennings/  
USAG Wiesbaden Public Affairs



## Deployment set to begin for European military exercise

U.S. Army

STUTTGART, Germany — U.S. European Command and the Department of the Army will begin the largest deployment of U.S.-based forces to Europe for an exercise in more than 25 years.

DEFENDER-Europe 20, and linked activities, will increase strategic readiness and interoperability by exercising the U.S. military's ability to rapidly deploy a large combat-credible force and equipment from the United States to Europe; and alongside its allies and partners, quickly respond to a potential crisis.

The joint, multinational training exercise is scheduled to take place from April to May, with personnel and equipment movements occurring from February through July. The exercise supports objectives defined by



NATO to build readiness within the alliance and deter potential adversaries.

Approximately 37,000 U.S., allied, and partner nation service members are expected to participate with roughly 20,000 Soldiers deploying from the U.S.

Participating units will include a U.S. Army division headquarters, three armored brigade combat teams, a fires

See 'DEFENDER' on **Page 3**

## US Army Europe ends face-to-face tax preparation

### U.S. Army Europe Public Affairs

The U.S. Army has ended funding toward its tax center program, prompting U.S. Army Europe's Judge Advocate to discontinue its centrally managed tax centers across U.S.

Army installations in Europe.

The end of face-to-face tax preparation affects all legal assistance offices across U.S. Army Europe.

"During the next tax filing season, U.S. Army Europe

will not operate tax centers, discontinuing a decades-long service because tax preparation is now available online at a nominal cost and is often free for Soldiers," said Col. Ian Iverson, the judge advocate for

U.S. Army Europe.

Iverson went on to explain that due to the rise in availability of online filing, tax centers no longer provide the Army with the same value.

"Staffing a tax center with

many Soldiers for the duration of the tax filing season is difficult to justify when tax preparation software programs and online filing have reduced the demand for tax preparation

See 'Taxes' on **Page 2**

<b>FPCON NORMAL</b> FPCON NORMAL is the baseline condition for all U.S. Army Europe personnel. It means that the threat of a terrorist attack is low and that the risk of a terrorist attack is low.	<b>FPCON ALPHA</b> FPCON ALPHA is a condition that is declared when the threat of a terrorist attack is moderate and the risk of a terrorist attack is moderate.	<b>FPCON BRAVO</b> FPCON BRAVO is a condition that is declared when the threat of a terrorist attack is high and the risk of a terrorist attack is high.	<b>FPCON CHARLIE</b> FPCON CHARLIE is a condition that is declared when the threat of a terrorist attack is very high and the risk of a terrorist attack is very high.	<b>FPCON DELTA</b> FPCON DELTA is a condition that is declared when the threat of a terrorist attack is extreme and the risk of a terrorist attack is extreme.
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**Alert!**  
Mass Warning System

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Get a sneak peek of the new facility before it opens. **Page 2**



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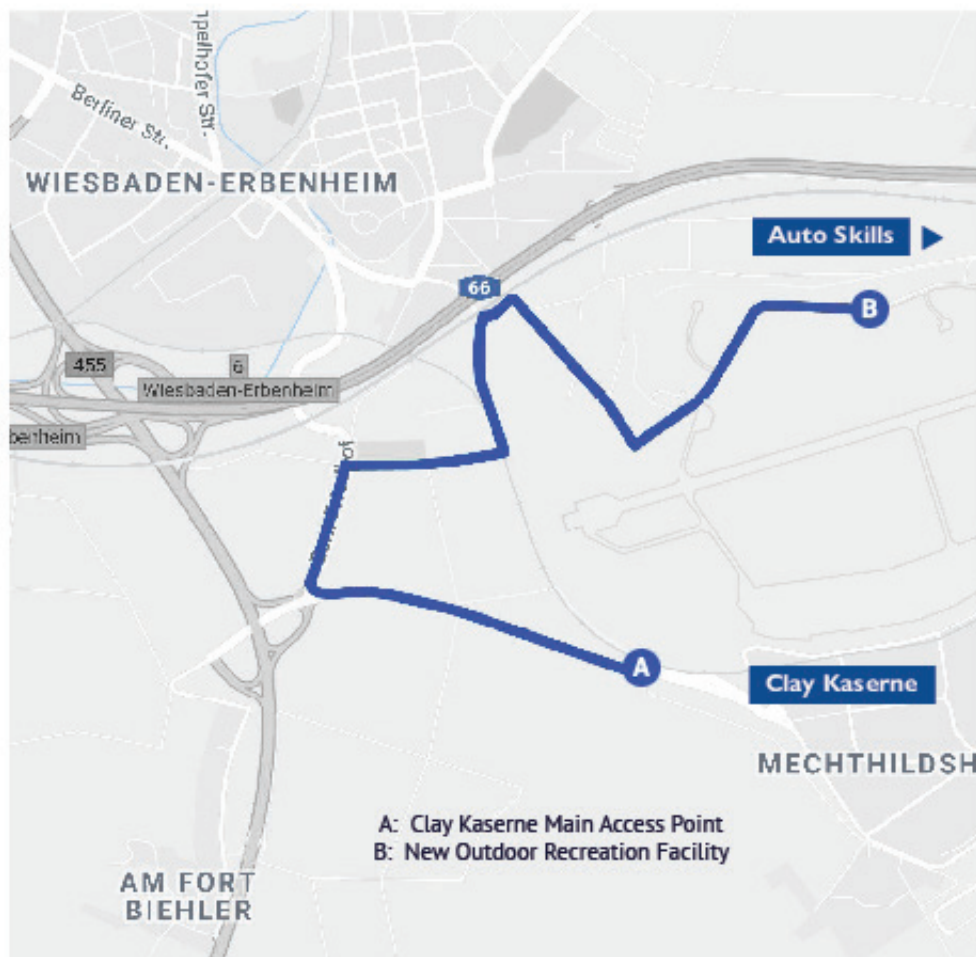
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# Next CIE at new Outdoor Rec

The next CIE will be Feb. 5 at the new Outdoor Recreation Center on Clay Kaserne North. The theme is winter activities and Valentine's Day events. The USO will provide breakfast snacks, coffee and tea and Outdoor Recreation will give away prizes and offer a tour of the facility. A grand opening of the new center is coming soon. GPS coordinates to the Clay North gate are 50.049006, 8.313183.

## *The New* **WIESBADEN OUTDOOR RECREATION CENTER** NEW LOCATION AND BRAND NEW STATE-OF-THE-ART FACILITY LOCATED ON CLAY NORTH!



Find our list of home-based businesses and learn how to become a garrison approved HBB at [www.herald-union.com/usag-wiesbaden-approved-home-based-businesses](http://www.herald-union.com/usag-wiesbaden-approved-home-based-businesses).

## TAXES

Continued from page 1

services," Iverson said.

In preparation for this move, U.S. Army Europe tax centers began scaling back services in 2018, focusing assistance on those that generally made less than \$54,000 per year. Previously, services had been open to all Department of Defense ID cardholders — service members, civilian employees, family members and retirees.

Although the Wiesbaden Legal Office will no longer provide

tax preparation services, it will continue to provide advice and assistance on certain tax issues, such as reviewing letters from the IRS or state tax authorities, as part of legal assistance. For those types of issues, please contact the Legal Assistance Office to make an appointment.

DoD personnel still have tax filing services while stationed in Europe. A filer with an income below \$66,000, for example, can file free through the IRS. Additionally, MilTax through Military One Source provides no-cost filing service and includes access to tax consultants



Courtesy photo

and e-filing software.

This year's tax deadline is April 15. According to the IRS website, U.S. citizens living abroad can receive a two-month extension if they explain their

circumstances.

For more information, go to [home.army.mil/wiesbaden](http://home.army.mil/wiesbaden), hover over "About," click "Garrison" and scroll down to "Legal Office."



# WARTAC graduates receive job offers

Story and photos by Erinn Burgess  
IMCOM

SEMBACH KASERNE, Germany - Fifteen transitioning service members from throughout Europe graduated from the Department of Veterans Affairs' Warrior Transition Advancement Course at a ceremony here Dec. 19. Along with certificates came job offers with the VA.

The WARTAC program aims to provide graduates who, after leaving the military, are ready to join one of the 56 Regional Veteran Service Centers throughout the United States, Puerto Rico and the Philippines.

Fourteen Soldiers and one Airman attended the 10-week course to learn skills needed to become veterans service representatives and handle VA disability claims for fellow veterans. Every individual received a job offer by the fifth week of the course.

"Many people come to a point where they decide it's time to take off the uniform, and the question becomes, 'what's next?' That's what this program is all about - helping them get to what's next," said Installation Management Command-Europe Command Sgt. Maj. Samara Pitre, guest speaker for the ceremony.

"These 15 personnel decided they want to continue to serve - they want to continue to serve those who have served in the past just like they did. They decided to go into this program to see what they can do about helping veterans as they move forward, and they successfully made it through 10-weeks of training so that they can go on and continue to serve as best as they can," she said.

Army Sgt. Luis Ramos, from the 2nd Cavalry Regiment at Vilseck, Germany, equated transitioning from the military to receiving the green light to jump out of a sky diving plane, only to find that the parachute will not deploy. He explained that the cut-away is there for safe landing should the main parachute be dysfunctional.



Gregory Cross, Department of Veterans Affairs Central Office training chief, speaks at the VA's Warrior Transition Advancement Course graduation ceremony at Sembach Kaserne, Germany, Dec. 19, 2019. The WARTAC program aims to provide graduates who, after leaving the military, are ready to join one of the 56 Regional Veteran Service Centers throughout the U.S., Puerto Rico and the Philippines.

"Allow me to paint the picture for you on how I felt 365 days ago," Ramos said. "I was not ready for the green light from SFL-TAP. My plan to transition out of the Army was failing fast. WARTAC was the cut-away after the parachute failed. . . . WARTAC provided a safe landing, along with a 10-digit grid that will lead me to the new organization I will call my family.

"With my brothers and sisters graduating today, I can gladly say that we are all on the same mission; with integrity, respect, commitment and excellence we will advocate for veterans and their families," he said.

Gregory Cross, VA Central Office training chief and presenter for the ceremony, spoke of the VA's core values before giving each graduate an "I CARE" pin.

"I CARE - Integrity, Commitment, Advocacy, Respect, Excellence - these are common traits that we have in the military. They will continue with you throughout your career," he said to the graduates. "Going forward, starting today, you are a part of the VA."

According to Cross, more than 1,100 individuals have graduated from the WARTAC program since its inception at Fort Belvoir in 2014. This was the second iteration of the course in Europe.



Fifteen transitioning service members from throughout Europe graduate from the Department of Veterans Affairs' Warrior Transition Advancement Course at a ceremony Dec. 19, 2019, at Sembach Kaserne, Germany. Fourteen Soldiers and one Airman attended the 10-week course to learn skills needed to become Veterans Service Representatives and handle VA disability claims.



Installation Management Command-Europe Command Sgt. Maj. Samara Pitre addresses the audience at the Department of Veterans Affairs' Warrior Transition Advancement Course graduation ceremony Dec. 19, 2019, at Sembach Kaserne, Germany. The next WARTAC VSR course will take place April 13-June 25 at Sembach Kaserne.

The next WARTAC VSR course will take place April 13-June 25 at Sembach Kaserne. Applicants must be active-duty service members transitioning from the military no later than Oct. 10, and must be available to begin employment no later than Aug. 24. Service members stationed outside local commuting distance can attend WARTAC on permissive

temporary duty status.

For more information about applying for WARTAC, contact Barbara Barnett, transition services manager at (0611)143-548-1304, DSN: 548-1304 or [barbara.a.barnett13.civ@mail.mil](mailto:barbara.a.barnett13.civ@mail.mil).

*Ray Johnson contributed to this report.*

## DEFENDER

Continued from page 1

brigade, and a sustainment brigade; as well as planned U.S. Air Force, U.S. Navy and Marine Corps participation. Some units will deploy with their equipment from the United States while other

U.S.-based units will deploy and draw Europe-based Army Prepositioned Stock vehicles and equipment.

"Readiness is not only about having the right forces and capabilities in place throughout the theater, it's about exercising our ability to quickly receive and integrate forces with our

own and those of our allies and partners," said Lt. Gen. Christopher Cavoli, U.S. Army Europe commanding general. "This ability is critical in projecting force at a moment's notice, our readiness reassures our allies and deters potential adversaries."

Eighteen countries are

expected to participate, with exercise activities occurring across 10 countries.

"Conducting tough, realistic training alongside our allies and partners in Europe enhances those professional relationships that build trust and confidence in each other and increases

our overall interoperability, readiness and the ability to collectively deter potential threats," Cavoli said.

For more information about DEFENDER-Europe 20, follow the hashtag #DefenderEurope on social media and visit the webpage [www.eur.army.mil/DefenderEurope](http://www.eur.army.mil/DefenderEurope).



## News flash

### Upcoming holidays

Community members should be aware of the following U.S. federal and training holidays, which may affect garrison front-door services.

Jan. 17 — Training holiday

Jan. 20 — Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Jan. 24 — Training holiday

Feb. 14 — Training holiday

Feb. 17 — Washington's Birthday

Call before you go on U.S. and training holidays. Find the garrison phonebook at [home.army.mil/wiesbaden](http://home.army.mil/wiesbaden). For holidays, go to [www.eur.army.mil](http://www.eur.army.mil) and click the "Community" tab, then click "Training Holidays."

Soldiers should confirm with their local chain of command whether they have a federal or training holiday off.

### Legionella result notices

No news is good news. In November and December 2019, 322 water samples were taken from showers in multi-family buildings and other facilities with showers across post to test for Legionella bacteria. The Directorate of Public Works Environmental Division notified residents in nine buildings that had levels of bacteria over the actionable threshold. The levels detected were not dangerous to residents. All residents in these buildings were notified, counter-measures were put in place and retesting completed.

Due to the number of results, residents in buildings not impacted were not notified of their test results. For more information, visit [home.army.mil/wiesbaden](http://home.army.mil/wiesbaden) and search "Legionella."

### Org Day closures

The following garrison services will experience closures for an all hands meeting and organization day Jan. 17, which is also a training holiday: Vehicle Registration, Police Records, Housing, SHIP store, Operations and Maintenance Division (except for emergencies), the Directorate of Resource Management, the Education Center and Administrative Services Division and Workforce Development Division services. The Directorate of Public Works Customer Service Center will be open, but with minimal staff. The Post Office will open at 3 p.m.

Follow us on Facebook at "Garrison Wiesbaden" and check [home.army.mil/wiesbaden](http://home.army.mil/wiesbaden) for the most up-to-date closures and schedule changes.

As always on German, U.S. or training holidays, call before you go using the garrison phonebook. Go to [home.army.mil/wiesbaden](http://home.army.mil/wiesbaden), and click "PHONEBOOK" under "TOP LINKS."

<b>FPCON NORMAL</b> <small>APPLIES WHEN A GENERAL GLOBAL THREAT OF POSSIBLE TERRORIST THREAT ACTIVITY EXISTS AND WARRANTS A ROUTINE SECURITY POSTURE.</small> <small>FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT YOUR SUPERVISOR</small>	<b>FPCON ALPHA</b> <small>OCCURS WHEN THERE IS AN INCREASED GENERAL THREAT OF POSSIBLE TERRORIST ACTIVITY AGAINST PERSONNEL OR FACILITIES, THE NATURE AND EXTENT OF THE THREAT ARE UNPREDICTABLE.</small> <small>FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT YOUR SUPERVISOR</small>	<b>FPCON BRAVO</b> <small>APPLIES WHEN AN INCREASED OR MORE PREDICTABLE THREAT OF TERRORIST ACTIVITY EXISTS.</small> <small>FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT YOUR SUPERVISOR</small>	<b>FPCON CHARLIE</b> <small>APPLIES WHEN AN INCIDENT OCCURS OR INTELLIGENCE IS RECEIVED INDICATING SOME FORM OF TERRORIST ACTION OR TARGETING AGAINST PERSONNEL OR FACILITIES IS LIKELY.</small> <small>100% ID CARD CHECK REQUIRED</small> <small>FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT YOUR SUPERVISOR</small>	<b>FPCON DELTA</b> <small>APPLIES IN THE IMMEDIATE AREA WHERE A TERRORIST ATTACK HAS OCCURRED OR WHEN INTELLIGENCE HAS BEEN RECEIVED THAT TERRORIST ACTION AGAINST A SPECIFIC LOCATION OR PERSON IS IMMINENT.</small> <small>100% ID CARD CHECK REQUIRED</small> <small>FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT YOUR SUPERVISOR</small>
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# Understanding FPCON

## USAG Wiesbaden Public Affairs

The Army in Europe relies on five Force Protection Condition levels — Normal, A, B, C and D — or as the Army says, Normal, Alpha, Bravo, Charlie and Delta. The levels increase from lowest condition at Normal to the highest and most protective at Delta.

The U.S. Army Europe commander delegates responsibility to general officers for force protection, known as the GOFPs. The U.S. Army Europe senior responsible officer for Wiesbaden is the GOFP for U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden.

The GOFP is the lowest level of command within U.S. Army Europe authorized to change local FPCONs. Garrison commanders immediately begin implementing FPCON changes upon receipt of notification to change.

### What is an FPCON?

The Force Protection Condition, or FPCON, does two things to counter terrorists or other hostile adversaries:

(1) It sets the FPCON level at Normal, Alpha, Bravo, Charlie or Delta.

**Normal:** Occurs when a general global threat of possible terrorist activity is possible. The minimum FPCON for U.S. Army commands is normal.

**Alpha:** Occurs when there is an increased general threat of possible terrorist activity against personnel or facilities, the nature and extent of the threat are unpredictable.

**Bravo:** Applies when an increased or more predictable threat of terrorist

activity exists.

**Charlie:** Applies when an incident occurs or intelligence is received indicating some form of terrorist action or targeting against personnel or facilities is likely. 100% ID card check required.

**Delta:** Applies in the immediate area where a terrorist attack has occurred or when intelligence has been received that terrorist action against a specific location or person is imminent. 100% ID card check required.

(2) When an FPCON level is set, certain force protection measures are implemented. For example, if an Army garrison elevates to FPCON Charlie, you might see increased security measures at the gates, or even gate closures and the presence of additional security forces.

### When are levels raised?

The FPCON levels are raised as a threat increases or if an attack has occurred.

### How do I know the FPCON?

The Force Protection Condition level is posted at each gate entrance and all entrances to garrison facilities. It is also located on the garrison homepage at [home.army.mil/wiesbaden](http://home.army.mil/wiesbaden).

### How will I know what measures are implemented?

While specific FPCON measures are not releasable in the interest of security, there are some key tips to keep in mind:

- The FPCON level has been set at Bravo or higher since 2001.
- FPCON Charlie — which indicates that a threat is likely — sets

into motion curtailment plans for nonessential personnel. If you are unsure if you are essential or nonessential personnel, contact your supervisor.

- FPCON Delta, the highest and most protective level, limits installation access to mission-essential personnel and other personnel as determined by the commander.

### What if you need to get on-post during FPCON Charlie or Delta?

Generally, all service members and their families have Charlie and Delta access. Civilian employees, host nation employees and contractors should check with their supervisor to ensure they have the proper access required for their position.

### Stay informed

- Connect to the USAG Wiesbaden Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/USAGWiesbaden](http://www.facebook.com/USAGWiesbaden) and ensure you're registered in Alert — the Army's mass-warning notification system.
- No matter what the FPCON is, always carry two forms of photo ID when entering U.S. military installations, according to the Army in Europe regulation on installation access control.
- Increased force protection measures do not necessarily indicate an increase in an FPCON. Army garrisons in Europe also implement random antiterrorism measures known as RAM.

*This article was modified from an article by Nathan T. Van Schaik published May 31, 2018, on [army.mil](http://army.mil).*

## Job Opportunity

The USAG Wiesbaden Housing Office is looking for customer service

representatives for its Neighborhood Centers. Apply today:

<https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/556289900>



# Wounded warriors visit Wiesbaden

## Soldiers and Marines share stories of hope

Emily Jennings

USAG Wiesbaden Public Affairs

Medal of Honor recipient retired Army Master Sgt. Leroy Petry visited U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden along with five other wounded warriors for a meet and greet Jan. 13 at the Mission Command Center on Clay Kaserne.

The retired Soldiers and Marines shared their stories of trauma, suffering and hope. The wounded warriors brought a message of suicide prevention and resiliency, imploring audience members to not hesitate to reach out for help.

### Master Sgt. Leroy Petry

Petry received the Medal of Honor for saving lives when he picked up a live grenade and threw it away from his fellow Rangers in Afghanistan in 2008. As he was releasing the grenade, it detonated, amputating his right hand, among other injuries.

In the days that followed, he drew strength from other injured service members he was in the hospital with who, he said, had worse injuries than he did and seemed to be handling it well.

It's important for people to remember they're not alone and to ask for help, he said.

"We all face moments of adversity...depression," he said. "And it's ok to reach out to those people around you for support and say, 'Hey, I'm struggling with this. Can you help me with it?'"

### Cpl. Matt Bradford

After waking up from a three-week coma, retired Marine Cpl. Matt Bradford said he hated the world. He had lost his legs and his vision when an improvised explosive device detonated underneath him in Iraq in 2007. But it was the people around him who helped him see that, "I'm still a Marine, and Marines don't quit," he said.

Bradford used that mental-

ity to heal himself so that he could then go on to help others.

"My injuries are not my weakness," he said. "They're my strength. And I'm going to use that as motivation each and every day to go out and attack whatever obstacle lies in front of me."

### Cpl. Rory Hamill

Marine Cpl. Rory Hamill, who grew up in an abusive home, said the Marines became the family he never had.

After stepping on an IED in Afghanistan and the injuries that followed, he contemplated suicide, he said.

Hamill recounted the thought of his children as being what prevented him from pulling the trigger.

Then he decided to reach out for the help he needed.

"It was a very long process to get to the point where I'm at now," he said. "I had to accept responsibility for my behavior. I had to seek mental help, seek physical help; I had to do a whole bunch of things. I had to help other people, which in turn wound up helping me."

### Sgt. 1st Class Joe Healey

Between 2012 and 2015, retired Army Sgt. 1st Class Joe Healey had nine deployments. After separating from the military and starting college, he realized he was alone, he said. He began self-medicating with alcohol and knew he needed to seek help, but he said his attitude got in the way. He said that although he had never contemplated suicide, he found himself standing on top of a seven-story building ready to jump. He sought treatment, then relapsed before becoming more self-aware. He now encourages others to be honest with themselves about how they're really feeling and "make that call" for help.

### Sgt. 1st Class Josh Olson

Retired Army Sgt. 1st Class Josh Olson lost his leg in Iraq in 2003. He self-medicated with alcohol after his injury, but after some time he realized it didn't solve his problems.

"I've looked in the bottom of a lot of bottles, and the answer's



Retired Marine Cpl. Matt Bradford, who lost his legs and vision while deployed to Iraq in 2007, shares his story of using his injuries as his strength, rather than his weakness, during a meet and greet with wounded warriors Jan. 13 at the Mission Command Center on Clay Kaserne.

not there," he said. "But I leaned on my friends, my family, my faith, and that got me through a lot of stuff."

The main thing that has helped him through the hard times is his group of 12 friends from the unit he deployed with.

"Every day we check in with each other... A phone call saves a life. If a friend asks you how you're doing; don't lie. It's ok to raise your hand and say, 'I'm not having a good day today.'"

He encouraged others to reach out when they need help and be there for others who may need it.

"Don't be afraid to lean on your friends and don't be afraid to give a shoulder to somebody and help them out, because you never know when you're going to need it."

Olson became a competitive rifle shooter for the Army and the first active duty member to make the Paralympic team. He became involved in adaptive sports and will be going to the Netherlands in May to compete in the Warrior Games.

### Master Sgt. Chris Corbin

When retired Army Master Sgt. Chris Corbin lost both legs below the knee to an IED in Afghanistan, medical professionals at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center gave him a timeline of 18 months to learn to walk, do some athletic activity and then



Marine Cpl. Rory Hamill, who was injured by an improvised explosive device in Afghanistan, speaks about his experience coming back from the brink of suicide and finally seeking the mental and physical help he needed.

medically retire.

"I don't like that plan," he recalled saying.

After five months, he returned to duty with 7th Special Forces group. He then realized physically and mentally he was not ok and shouldn't have left that early. He said he struggled with having been everybody's go-to person before his injury and now having to ask for help.

Corbin described himself as an empath and said he used that

trait to his advantage.

"It helped me to start helping other folks," he said.

After visiting Wiesbaden, the wounded warriors, sponsored by the Troops First Foundation, travelled to Ramstein and Landstuhl Regional Medical Center to better understand the process of their evacuation from combat to care and treatment.

For suicide prevention resources, go to <https://www.dsps.mil>.



# Mass warning system keeps personnel in the know

## USAG Wiesbaden Public Affairs

Personnel with a common access card and a “.mil” email address should verify their contact information is updated in the Alert! Mass Warning Notification System. To check, users should go to the Alert! icon at the bottom right of their work computer screen. The icon is a solid blue circle with a white exclamation point inside. Right click on it and select “Edit Contact Info” to verify that all contact information and that of dependents, if applicable, is correct.

The U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden Emergency Management team recommends adding dependents so that everyone can be in the know if an emergency were to arise. Only personnel with a common access card and a “.mil” address can access the system.

The Army’s MWNS notifies service members, Army civilians

and their families during a crisis. MWNS operators, for example, can issue alerts in the event of an active shooter, inclement weather or any other event requiring immediate notification.

The Alert! MWNS provides similar service to the old AtHoc system — which it replaced — capable of sending emergency notifications to worldwide users via desktop pop-up, mobile phone, SMS text, email and public distribution.

Your Alert! account will follow your Army career — both as a civilian and service member overseas and in the U.S.

Additionally, Alert! allows registered users to add up to 10 different phone numbers to include more family members.

For more information, go to [home.army.mil/wiesbaden](http://home.army.mil/wiesbaden).

*Nathan Van Schaik, USAG Bavaria Public Affairs, contributed to this report.*



Chillers

5 x 155



## Community notes

**Wednesday Night Alive**

The Religious Support Office offers Wednesday Night Alive classes and dinners every Wednesday from 5:30 to 7:15 p.m. beginning Feb. 5. Join the Facebook group "wednightalive" for more information on topics and meals or call the chaplain's office at (0611) 143-548-5176.

**Valentine's Day Dinner**

The Little Italy Restaurant and Catering Center offers a special Valentine's Day Dinner from 6-9 p.m. Feb. 14. The special meal will include an aperitif, appetizer, main course and dessert. Cost is \$80 for two people. Call (0611) 143-548-9413 to reserve a table.

**Leap Into the Lounge**

Come on up to the Wiesbaden Entertainment Center Lounge at 8 p.m. Feb. 29 starting and add a day of partying you don't get every year. A limited menu will be available from the Strike Zone from 8-10:30 p.m. Themed drinks will also be available for purchase. Call (0611) 143-548-9404 or 9406 for details.

**Blind Date with a Book**

Different genres of books will be gift wrapped and ready for Wiesbaden Library patrons to check out throughout February. Readers are asked to "take a chance on book love" by selecting a book they may otherwise never have checked out. Stop by the library in February.

**'Blue Door'**

The Amelia Earhart Playhouse invites play-goers to this dramatic exploration of the male African-American experience. "Blue Door" is about a college professor coming to terms with his personal and cultural identity. Performances are Feb. 1, 14, 15, 21 and 22 at 7:30 p.m.; Feb. 2, 16 and 23 at 2 p.m. Purchase tickets at the Playhouse or Wiesbaden Arts and Crafts Center.

**Tips to grow your TSP**

Enhance your financial literacy by learning how to make the most of the Thrift Savings Plan during ACS' free Making the Most of My TSP class on Feb. 4 from 9-10:30 a.m. in Bldg. 1023W, Room 7, on Clay Kaserne. Call ACS at (0611) 143-548-9201 to reserve a space in the class.

**BOSS Meetings**

Wiesbaden's Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers meets every first and third Wednesday of the month from 4-5 p.m. at the Warrior Zone. Find out about upcoming outings for single service members, community support and more. Call (0611) 143-548-9816 for details.

**CYS special opening**

Wiesbaden Child and Youth Services has a special opening for children ages six weeks to fifth grade on Valentine's Day, Feb. 14, from 6:30-11:30 p.m. Cost is \$25. Make reservations at Parent Central Services at least four working days in advance. Call (0611) 143-548-9356.

**Trivia Night**

Share your knowledge of pop culture, history, science, literature and more during Trivia Night at the Wiesbaden Entertainment Center. Join a team and compete for door prizes. Trivia Nights are from 7-9 p.m. Feb. 12 and 26.

**Sweetheart Karaoke, Valentine's Bowling**

Sing your sweetheart a love song up in the Wiesbaden Entertainment Center Lounge Feb. 13 with Valentine's-themed karaoke. Bring your sweetheart and bowl from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Feb. 13 and 14. There'll be special food and bowling packages available. Call (0611) 143-548-9404 for more information.

**Toddler playgroup**

A toddler playgroup meets from 10-11:30 a.m. Feb. 7 and 21 at the Army Community Service cafeteria. The free playgroup is for children ages 1-4. Call (0611) 143-548-9201 for more information.

**Car Care Class**

Learn basic car maintenance during this class at the Wiesbaden Automotive Skills Center from 10:30-11:30 a.m. Feb. 16. Topics include checking fluids, jump starting your vehicle, changing a tire, proper tire pressure and oil changes. Cost is \$15. Call (0611) 143-548-9817.

**Guitar and Bass Lessons**

Enjoy individual electric and acoustic guitar lessons or

electric bass lessons for adults at the Wiesbaden Arts and Crafts Center. Lessons are 30 minutes long and generally available Tuesday through Fridays from 2-4 p.m. Register at the Arts and Crafts Center or call (0611) 143-548-9838.

**Mommy and Me Art**

The Wiesbaden Arts and Crafts Center features Mommy and Me Art every second and fourth Friday of the month from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The event is free.

**Financial Education for Couples**

Army Community Service's Financial Management Division offers a free "Love and Money: Financial Education for Couples" class from 10:30 a.m. to noon Feb. 18. Classes meet at Bldg. 1023 West, Room 7 on Clay Kaserne. Register by calling ACS at (0611) 143-548-9201.

**Baby Story Time**

Come to the Wiesbaden Library for Baby Story Time on the fourth Wednesday of the month from 10-10:30 a.m. — for children from birth to age 3 along with their caregivers.

**Wood Shop Safety Course**

Learn how to safely use the Wood Shop at the Wiesbaden Arts and Crafts Center during the Wood Shop Safety Course. Classes are held from 5:15-6 p.m. Feb. 5 and 19 and cost \$10. Call (0611) 143-548-9838.

**Preschool Story Time**

Children up to age 6 are invited to the Wiesbaden Library at 10 a.m. Thursdays for a fun hour of stories, crafts and songs.

**Host Nation Orientation**

Army Community Service sponsored Host Nation Orientation is a great way for newcomers to learn about German culture, language, public transportation, and tips about living in our community. Host Nation Orientation is from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. every Tuesday at the Wiesbaden Entertainment Center. Call Army Community Service at (0611) 143-548-9201 for more information.

**Auto Skills can help**

The Wiesbaden Automotive

Skills Center on the North Side of Clay Kaserne offers a wide variety of services including a wheel alignment service, tire pressure monitor system repair, basic maintenance class for spouses and more. Stop by to find out about these services or to work on your own vehicle. Call (0611) 143-548-6679.

**ACS classes**

Army Community Service

offers a wealth of free classes throughout the month — everything from Army Family Team Building training to a Resume Seminar, Banking and Checking Accounts to Home Buying. Check out <https://wiesbaden.armymwr.com/europe/wiesbaden/programs/army-community-service-acs> and click on the Calendar link for times and locations.

Church of St. Augustine

2 x 50

The Refuge Wiesbaden

2x50

2 x 120

Wiesbaden Dental Care



# USO delivers Christmas joy to Soldiers, Families



Courtesy photo/USO Wiesbaden  
The Wiesbaden USO gave out 100 free 6-foot Christmas trees and hosted a single service member Christmas dinner and Winter Fest to make the holidays a little easier for service members and their families. The USO offers trips, outings for newcomers and more. They will host a Super Bowl viewing party at 10 p.m. Feb. 2 at the USO Cottage. For more information go to [wiesbaden.uso.org](http://wiesbaden.uso.org).



## Sports & travel

### Super Bowl Party

View Super Bowl LIV on one of 32 large screens at the Wiesbaden Entertainment Center starting at 11 p.m. Feb. 2. The WEC Super Bowl Party will feature giveaways and prizes at halftime. There will also be a limited menu available and bowling special rates.

### Ski/snowboard trips

Wiesbaden Outdoor Recreation holds trips to Engelberg, Switzerland, Feb. 29 and

March 28; and to the Black Forest Feb. 1. Register at the Wiesbaden Sports, Fitness and Outdoor Recreation Center.

### Youth Rock Climbing

Middle School and High School age students are invited to get in some rock climbing on Fridays from 3:30-5:30 p.m. (weather permitting). All skill levels are welcome. Participants must be registered with Child and Youth Services. Call (0611)

143-548-9341 to confirm attendance.

### Martial arts classes

Learn self-defense techniques and more during ongoing Golden Sage Martial Arts Classes at the Wiesbaden Sports, Fitness and Outdoor Recreation Center. Classes are from noon to 2 p.m. Saturdays and cost \$8 per class. For more information visit [www.bob-karnes-golden-sage.com](http://www.bob-karnes-golden-sage.com) or call the fitness center at (0611) 143-548-9830.

Autohaus Hollmann  
2x50

Zahnärzte am Kurhaus  
2 x 50

Andrews Federal Credit Union

3 x 100

# Citizenship services changing in 2020

## U.S. Army Europe

Citizenship services for overseas military members and qualified family members will change in early 2020 with the closure of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Frankfurt Field Office on Jan. 31.

The USCIS will continue to perform its naturalization mission during approximately one week each quarter at two locations in Europe: U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart, Germany; and Naval Support Activity, Naples, Italy.

Service members who need help with immigration related services, including naturalization for themselves or their dependents, will need to coordinate directly with USCIS to schedule interviews

and travel to these locations during the specified periods of time.

Service members and dependents seeking overseas naturalization should begin the process as quickly as possible rather than waiting for PCS/ETS orders. Additional guidance will be sent through unit personnel sections.

USCIS has a toll-free military help line at 877-CIS-4MIL (877-247-4645) and email address at [militaryinfo@uscis.dhs.gov](mailto:militaryinfo@uscis.dhs.gov) exclusively for military members, their family members and veterans.

More information regarding the closure and change of process may be found at <https://www.uscis.gov/about-us/find-uscis-office/international-offices/germany-frankfurt-field-office>.

H&R Block  
2x50

The comm shop

2 x 100



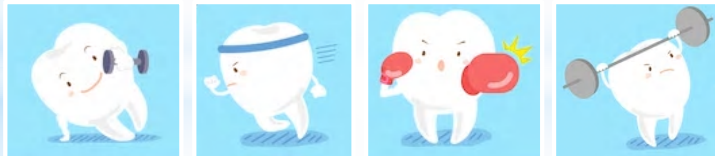
## DENTAL HEALTH MONTH ART CONTEST

Sponsored by the Wiesbaden Dental Clinic in celebration of the 2020  
National Children Health Month

The 2020 Theme is:

### DENTAL FITNESS

Show us what dental fitness means to you!  
How do you keep your teeth strong and healthy?



**PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED FOR THE WINNER IN EACH AGE CATEGORY!**

Drop off your entry at the Dental Clinic Front Desk

**Submission Deadline: 21 February 2020 at 1600**

Requirements: Media type must be flat, no heavier than 5oz, and no larger than 9 in x 12 in.  
Most importantly, remember to have **FUN!**

## Fitness resolution



Wiesbaden Family and MWR

Participants try out classes at Wiesbaden Family and MWR's Fitness Resolution Day Jan. 11 at the Wiesbaden Sports, Fitness and Outdoor Recreation Center.

Gebrüder Stern

2 x 70

autohaus hollman

5 x 155



# Army combat medic saves airline passenger

**Russell Toof**

Regional Health Command Europe

SEMBACH, Germany — In a real-life situation reminiscent of something from a movie, a U.S. Army combat medic used the skills she learned from a 17-year career to help an unconscious passenger on a Dec. 14 flight from Portugal to Germany.

"We were about 90 minutes from landing and the flight crew made an announcement that they were looking for a doctor onboard," said Sgt. 1st Class Teresa Prupis. "Nobody stood up, so I did."

Prupis, a Regional Health Command Europe liaison officer to the U.S. Army Europe Office of the Command Surgeon, found a 24-year-old man passed out in his seat and covered in sweat. "I checked his airway, his breathing, his circulation and asked for what medical equipment they had onboard while my husband helped me get this man out of his seat and onto the floor."

"I asked the flight attendant to get



Russell Toof \Regional Health Command Europe

U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Teresa Prupis currently serves as a Regional Health Command Europe liaison officer to the U.S. Army Europe Office of the Command Surgeon.

his legs elevated so more blood would circulate to his vital organs and I applied an oxygen mask," Prupis said. "Eventually he came to, we got him back to his seat, and I was able to ask

questions through an off-duty airline employee who was able to translate for me.

"At one point the captain asked if they needed to divert the flight, and it was awkward for me because depending on what I said, that's what was going to happen," Prupis said. "I told the pilot we could land in Germany as scheduled."

"We landed in Frankfurt, and there was a medical staff and doctor waiting as soon as they opened the door to the plane," she said. "The Germans knew English, so I was able to explain to them what had been happening and what I did. The flight crew thanked me profusely once he was off the plane."

Amazingly, this was not Prupis' first time providing medical assistance on a flight. "My family says they don't want to fly with me anymore," said Prupis with a smile.

"I'm a person who believes your path is set forward. I'm just apparently in the right place at the right time. It's a privi-

lege and an honor to do medical care."

Prupis joined the Army after Sept. 11. She was a police officer in North Carolina but chose to be a combat medic after seeing the care her father received while he battled with and passed away from cancer. "I was taken back by the care he received and the compassion," she said. "I wanted to return that care to others."

The combat medic specialist is primarily responsible for providing emergency medical treatment at the point of injury on the battlefield, limited primary care, and health protection and evacuation from a point of injury or illness.

"Being an Army combat medic is beyond rewarding, and I have no regrets about picking this career field. I think the U.S. Army does such a great job training personnel, and it's an honor to assist anywhere."

RHCE is responsible for all Army medical treatment facilities, dental clinics, veterinary clinics and public health services within the European Command.

AdvantiPro Find-it guide



# German students assist with U.S. forces processes

**Lena Stange**

USAG Wiesbaden Public Affairs

Students from the Management Master's Program at Hochschule Mainz, University of Applied Sciences, worked on three consulting projects for U.S. Army Europe and U.S. Air Forces in Europe as part of their Controlling and Consulting course and presented their results Jan. 8 at the Community Activity Center on Clay Kaserne.

The first presentation was about analyzing and optimizing the host nation recruitment process of U.S. Army Europe and U.S. Air Forces in Europe in Germany. The second group presented their analysis of the Army's host nation employee dialogue program, the Mitarbeitergespräch, or MAG. The third presentation was about the Army's Utility Tax Avoidance Program.

Frank Dünkelberg, human resources specialist with U.S. Army Europe G-1, Civilian Personnel Division, who is also a graduate from Hochschule Mainz, said he initiated the cooperation to promote host nation relations and to receive a fresh perspective on the division's process of modernizing their host nation recruitment system.

Britta Rathje and Sven Fischbach, professors at Hochschule Mainz and instructors of the course, were happy to have their students work with the U.S. forces. To meet the requirements, UTAP and MAG were identified as two additional projects to have three in total for the students to work on.

The first group analyzed the German recruitment market and how to attract potential host nation employees. The bottom line was to "make it (the job offer) simple to find and easy to apply for," said the students during their presentation. They recommended among other things paying for ads in an online job portal, improving the visibility of the Army host nation career page



Lena Stange/USAG Wiesbaden Public Affairs

Max Schaaf (from left), Marie Wasem and Carsten Mengel, students at Hochschule Mainz, University of Applied Sciences, present the results of their consulting project on the optimization of the host nation recruitment process Jan. 8 at the Community Activity Center on Clay Kaserne.

and speeding up the recruitment process in general. They strongly advised against the use of hard copy applications, which is the current practice.

The second group interviewed employees and supervisors, analyzed the MAG program and suggested ways to improve its value. At the moment, the MAG focuses on feedback and communication; the students suggested to use the Vision Of Internal Collaboration and Engagement format, which adds the concepts of leadership competences, common objectives and individual development to the dialogue. The new format is supposed to make communication flow both ways, build trust and make sure goals and agreements are followed up on.

The third group focused on the UTAP program, which belongs to the Directorate of Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation. It ensures Soldiers and civilians, who live off post, do not have to pay value added tax on their utility bills. Since FMWR is the agreement partner to the utility companies, unpaid bills generate a high debt for them, the students said during their presentation.

They identified the main goal of the project being a debt reduction by 70%. To achieve this goal the group suggested to compare the utility companies and pick only the one with the best conditions, to have invoices, overdue notices

and debt letters in English, and improve the registration form, among other things. The students already accomplished one subgoal. They convinced the utility company to provide all documentation in English.

"The project was a lot of fun," said Annika Cronauer, who was part of the UTAP project. "It is a whole different experience from sitting at university and listening to theory. It is very cool to really look into a company, and the cooperation went very well. We got along well with everybody and received all the information we needed."

U.S. forces representatives as well as Hochschule Mainz members gave positive feedback on the cooperation. The U.S. Army Europe Deputy Chief of Staff Bill Williams thanked each student by handing them a certificate.

Chris Pittman, U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden director of human resources and sponsor of the MAG group, said: "They did an outstanding job. It was a very good experience."

"I can speak for the group. We had a very great semester and very great insights into the Army," said Marvin Lenk, a member of the MAG group.

"Unexpectedly, this was one of the best projects that we have ever done. ... We felt great hospitality and commitment. Maybe this was a good starting point for further cooperations," said Rathje.

Maiss  
2 x 25

WHO TO CALL IN AN  
EMERGENCY

**ON-POST**

**Military Police – (0611) 705-114**  
**Ambulance or Fire – (0611) 705-117**

**OFF-POST**

**German Polizei – 110**  
**Ambulance or Fire – 112**

IF YOU DIAL 110 OR 112 FROM YOUR CELL OR HOME PHONE ON POST IT WILL GO TO A GERMAN DISPATCHER.  
TO CALL THE MILITARY POLICE FOR NON-EMERGENCIES, DIAL (0611) 143-548-7777, 7778 OR 7779.  
TO CALL THE CLAY FIRE STATION FOR A NON-EMERGENCY, DIAL (0611) 705-5883 OR 5315.

Frankfurt Ski

2 x 70

**Autohaus Hollmann**  
**2x150**